Met Office launches online weather game

22 August 2011 - The Met Office, in collaboration with the Universities of Bristol and Cambridge, is launching an online weather game to investigate how we respond to different representations of probabilities, particularly for use in presenting weather forecasts.

Met Office
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Which shifts are least likely to have rain?
Pick the 3 shifts where it is least likely to rain
Shift 1
Shift 2
Shift 3
Shift 4
That's one! Pick another two shifts where it is least likely to rain

The weather game project, led by Liz Stephens from the University of Bristol, will run for one month and aims to be the largest and most comprehensive study into the understanding of how weather probabilities are communicated.

Liz said "It's not easy to communicate probabilities and previous studies have only been carried out on a relatively small scale. By presenting this in the format of an online game, we hope to learn how using probabilities can improve the presentation of weather forecasts."

Players of the game will help Brad, our ice cream man, run his business by deciding on where and when he should sell his ice cream depending on the weather over a four week period.

The weather game uses a number of ways of presenting probabilistic forecasts. This will give us important feedback and information from the public about the most effective ways of presenting our weather forecasts.

Ken Mylne, Met Office Ensemble Forecasting Manager, said "We are constantly looking at ways to improve the way we communicate our forecasts to the public. By playing this game participants will help us to understand the best way of communicating probability in weather forecasts."

The weather game takes approximately 5 minutes to complete. Each day players of the game will be entered into a prize draw to win a Met Office T-shirt.

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